THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

MEDICAL PARASITOLOGY—For Medical Students and Practicing Physicians—2nd Edition—William G. Sawitz, M.D., Professor of Parasitology, Associate in Medicine, The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. New York, 1956. 342 pages, $6.00.

The first edition of this text published six years ago was very favorably received and many teachers of parasitology in medical schools and practicing clinicians found it worthy. This new edition has been increased from 296 to 342 pages. On the whole the second edition is quite similar to the first. A few new features have been added which considerably enhance the value and usefulness of the text. The presentation of material follows the usual pattern in books dealing with medical parasitology. There are chapters dealing with the important protozoa, helminths and arthropods which are associated with disease in man. These are followed by a rather extensive section on treatment of the various parasitic diseases. This same section includes, as well, a discussion of arthropod infestations wherein the harmful effects produced by insects and arachnids and the measures which should be taken to counteract these harmful effects are described. There is a short but helpful section on some of the insecticides currently in general use. For the second edition the author has added a section of some 17 pages which is designated as "Synopsis." There is a brief introduction to this section which many authors would place at the beginning of their books instead of at the end. As part of the "Synopsis" there are tabular or diagrammatic presentations of "Life Cycles of Intestinal Parasites," "Sites of Infection by Parasites" and "Diagnostic Material and Stage of Parasite Found." In addition there is a helpful discussion of the characteristic blood changes which occur in parasitic infections.

Standard procedures and methods employed in the laboratory diagnosis of parasitic infections are presented in a short section. The method of preparation of only one culture medium for *Entamoeba histolytica* is given. It would have been helpful to include an all-liquid type of medium. Although the Army Medical School (AMS) technique for the recovery of schistosome eggs from feces is included in the technical section it is unfortunate that the formalin-ether-sedimentation procedure (after Ritchie) also developed in an Army laboratory (406 MGL) was not included as well. This latter method is a highly efficient centrifugation-sedimentation technique in general use in many diagnostic laboratories. The book concludes with a vocabulary of technical terms. If pertinent the etymological derivation for each term is indicated. This is a most useful aid to the medical student who often approaches the terminology of the parasites of man with a sense of frustration and defeat.

Certain sections of the textual parts of the book have been expanded but in the main there are no extensive additions. For example there is a fuller description of the clinical aspects of amoebiasis and there have been additions to the section on toxoplasmosis. There are a large number of drawings throughout the book giving the structural and differential-diagnostic features of the various parasites. From the student's standpoint this is one of the most helpful aspects of the text. The drawings on the whole are excellent—some additional figures have been added. It is good to find that the drawing of *Isospora hominis*, the procercoid larva and the sparganum of *Diphyllobothrium latum* and the unilocular cyst of *Echinococcus granulosus* have been redone. The drawings of the eggs of *Clonorchis sinensis* and *Heterophyes heterophyes* are poor and misleading.

The book is intended primarily for medical students and for clinicians. The professional parasitologist and the laboratory worker who is responsible for the examination of clinical materials would find it of limited use. No doubt the author would agree with this since it was his intention to provide a practical text for courses in medical parasitology in our schools of medicine and for clinicians to aid them in the diagnosis and treatment of parasitic infections. The text is concise and to the point. Taxonomy is kept to a minimum and only that amount of zoologic information is presented to permit adequate orientation with regard to diagnosis, pathogenesis and epidemiology.

There is no doubt that this second edition will receive continued favor by students, instructors and clinicians. Anyone searching for a most informative concise and practical presentation of medical parasitology would do well to acquire this book.

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PROGRESS IN HEMATOLOGY—Volume I—1956—Edited by Leandro M. Tocantins, M.D., with 27 contributors. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16. 336 pages, $9.75.

This volume joins the many Reviews and Advances now appearing with 16 sections on various hematologic subjects. Whatever the editor's intention, he has called upon outstanding workers who have reviewed their particular fields. Among the articles of general interest are those on intrinsic factor and B_{12} interrelationships, treatment of hypochromic anemia with parenteral iron, life span of erythrocytes, abnormal hemoglobins, the autoimmune thrombocytopenias, the blood in systemic lupus erythematosus, the chemotherapy of leukemia, agammaglobulinemia and others. The papers by Tocantins' group are rather restricted in scope (local factors in upper gastrointestinal bleeding, radio-gold in acquired hemolytic anemia) and might better have been submitted to a journal of hematology. The volume is well printed with good illustrations although the publisher included 20 extra pages of one section. The book is highly recommended and will be of interest to the general physician, pediatrician (exchange transfusion), surgeon (surgery in hemophilia), obstetrician (acute fibrinogen deficiency), hematologist, laboratory and research worker (leukocyte metabolism and recovery from radiation). It is hoped that further numbers will appear.